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For Immediate Release
Friday, June 6, 2003

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Jelinek Pleased with Progress of K-12 Budget

LANSING – Senate Appropriations K-12 Subcommittee Chair Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, announced major progress in restoring early childhood programs and keeping per pupil funding at \$6,700 in the \$12.56 billion K-12/School Aid 2004 budget.

“Keeping per pupil funding at \$6,700 and restoring some funding to programs such as early childhood development, adult education and at-risk was at the top of my list to accomplish,” said Jelinek. “The Senate version of House Bill 4401 does that.”

The legislation provides funding for most of the categoricals currently in place. Funding was retained for Learning Without Limits wireless laptops in classrooms, maintained teen school health clinics, gifted and talented programs as well as math and science centers.

“It is important to me that during the tight budgetary times we support all of our students, young, old, gifted and at-risk,” Jelinek said. “In this information age, a world-class education is a must, at any age.”

The Senate version of House Bill 4401 will be taken up by the full Appropriations Committee next week and then will be moved to the Senate floor.